

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method for displaying digital content comprising:
 - using a first tuner to access a first transport stream associated with a first frequency;
 - displaying in a main picture area of a display screen, a first program channel associated with said first transport stream;
 - using a second tuner during spare periods of said second tuner to access a second transport stream associated with a second frequency for a second program channel, wherein said second transport stream comprises program information operable to identify program related information for subsequent decoding thereof;
 - ~~decoding digital content from said second transport stream and caching said program information into a memory buffer operable to reduce a delay in rendering time of said second program channel when said second program channel is selected a portion of said digital content into a memory buffer, wherein said portion of said digital content is used to display a plurality of frames associated with said second transport stream upon receiving a channel change~~

associated therewith; and

upon selection of said first tuner being switched to a new said second
program channel associated with a program information stored in said memory
buffer, recalling said portion of said digital content program information from said
memory buffer for decoding thereof operable to provide for use in providing a fast
channel change operation to said new second program channel and display
thereof by switching to said second tuner.

2. (original) A method as described in Claim 1 wherein said second tuner is normally dedicated to picture-in-picture rendering on said display screen.

3. (currently amended) A method as described in Claim 2 wherein said digital content program information comprises table information associated with said second transport stream.

4. (original) A method as described in Claim 3 wherein said table information is derived from a program association table that is encoded in said second transport stream.

5. (currently amended) A method as described in Claim 1 [[2]] further comprising:

caching wherein said digital content comprises decoded I frames

associated with ~~of~~ said second program channel ~~new channel~~.

6. (currently amended) A method as described in Claim 1 [[2]] further comprising:

using said second tuner to scan through a plurality of frequencies over time to access a plurality of transport streams;

decoding digital content from associated with said plurality of transport streams resulting in decoded digital content; and

caching a plurality of portions of said decoded digital content ~~decoded~~ ~~associated with~~ ~~said plurality of transport streams~~ in a plurality of memory buffers associated therewith.

7. (original) A method as described in Claim 1 wherein said first transport stream and said second transport stream are the same and wherein said first frequency and said second frequency are the same.

8. (currently amended) A method as described in Claim 1 [[2]] wherein said portion of ~~said digital content~~ program information cached to said memory buffer is associated with a said second program channel, wherein said second program channel ~~that is a predicted~~ as a next channel ~~that will be selected~~, wherein said prediction is ~~which is predicted~~ based on previous channel selections.

9. (currently amended) A method for displaying digital content comprising:

using a first tuner to access a first transport stream associated with a first frequency;

displaying in a main picture area of a display screen, a first program channel associated with said first transport stream;

using a second tuner to access a second transport stream associated with a second frequency;

decoding first digital content from said second transport stream resulting in first decoded digital content comprising first program information operable to identify program related information for subsequent decoding thereof; and

~~caching a portion of said first digital content said first program information into a memory buffer operable to reduce a delay in rendering time of a second program channel when said second program channel is selected, wherein said portion of said first digital content is used to display a plurality of frames associated with said second transport stream upon receiving a channel change associated therewith;~~

using a third tuner to access a third transport stream associated with a third frequency;

decoding second digital content from said third transport stream resulting in second decoded digital content comprising second program information

operable to identify program related information for subsequent decoding thereof;

and

caching a portion of said second digital content said second program information into said memory buffer operable to reduce a delay in rendering time of a third program channel when said third program channel is selected, wherein said portion of said second digital content is used to display a plurality of frames associated with said third transport stream upon receiving a channel change associated therewith; and

upon a channel change to a new said second program channel or said third program channel associated with said second or third tuner, recalling said first program information or said second program information a portion of said digital content associated with said second or said third tuner from said memory buffer for use in providing a fast channel change operation to said new second program channel or to said third program channel.

10. (original) The method of Claim 9 wherein said second tuner is normally dedicated for picture-in-picture rendering on said display screen.

11. (currently amended) A method as described in Claim 9 further comprising: wherein in response to a channel change to said third tuner, performing the following:

switching to said third tuner, wherein said switching comprises:

using said third tuner to access said third transport stream;

displaying in said main picture area of said display screen, said

new third program channel associated with said third transport stream;

using said first tuner to access a fourth transport stream associated

with a fourth frequency; and

decoding third digital content from said fourth transport stream

resulting in third decoded digital content comprising third program

information operable to identify program related information for

subsequent decoding thereof; and

caching a portion of said digital content said third program

information into said memory buffer operable to reduce a delay in

rendering time of a fourth program channel when said fourth program

channel is selected.

12. (currently amended) A method as described in Claim 9 further comprising:

caching wherein said portion of said digital content associated with said
new channel comprises decoded I-frames associated with each program
channel.

13. (currently amended) A method as described in Claim 9 [[12]]
wherein program information said portion of digital content associated with said

~~new channel further~~ comprises table information associated with ~~a said third~~ transport stream associated therewith.

14. (currently amended) A method as described in Claim 9 further comprising:

using said third tuner to scan through a plurality of frequencies over time to access a plurality of transport streams;

decoding fourth digital content from associated said plurality of transport streams resulting in a fourth decoded digital content; and

caching a plurality of portions of said fourth decoded digital content ~~decoded associated with said plurality of transport streams~~ to said memory buffer.

15. (currently amended) A method as described in Claim 9 wherein ~~said portion of said second digital content~~ second program information cached to said memory buffer is associated with ~~a said third program channel~~, wherein said third program channel that is a predicted as potentially a next channel that will be selected, wherein said prediction is which is predicted based on previous channel selections.

16. (currently amended) A method as described in Claim 15 wherein ~~said portion of said first program information~~ digital content cached to said

memory buffer is associated with another a fourth program channel, wherein said fourth program channel that is a predicted as potentially a next channel that will be selected, wherein said prediction is which is predicted based on previous channel selections.

17. (currently amended) A method for displaying digital content comprising:

using a first tuner to access a first transport stream associated with a first frequency;

displaying in a main picture area of a display screen, a first program channel associated with said first transport stream;

using a second tuner to access a second transport stream associated with a second frequency;

decoding said second transport stream comprising table information associated with a second program channel, wherein said table information is from said second transport stream operable to identify program related information for subsequent decoding thereof; and

caching said table information into a memory buffer operable to reduce a delay in rendering time of said second program channel when said second program channel is selected, said table information comprises program identifications for programs of said second transport stream that is used to display a plurality of frames associated with said second transport stream upon

receiving a channel change associated therewith; and
upon selection of said second program channel a channel change to a
new channel associated with said second transport stream, recalling said table
information from said memory buffer for decoding thereof operable to provide use
in providing a fast channel change operation to said new second program
channel.

18. (currently amended) A method as described in Claim 17 further
comprising:

decoding I-frames associated with programs of said second transport
stream;

caching said I-frames to said memory buffer; and
upon said selection of said second program channel change to said new
channel, also recalling cached I-frames for use in said fast channel change
operation to said second program providing said last channel change operation
to said new channel.

19. (original) A method as described in Claim 17 wherein said second
tuner is normally dedicated to picture-in-picture rendering on said display screen.

20. (currently amended) A method as described in Claim 17 further
comprising:

using said second tuner to also scan through a plurality of frequencies over time to access a plurality of transport streams; and

decoding said plurality of transport streams to retrieve a plurality of table informations from said plurality of transport streams; and

caching a said plurality of table informations ~~from said plurality of transport streams~~ to said memory buffer.

21. (currently amended) A method as described in Claim 17 wherein said second program new channel is a predicted as a next channel that will be selected, wherein said prediction is predicted based on prior channel selections.

22. (original) A method as described in Claim 17 wherein said first transport stream and said second transport stream are the same.

23. (currently amended) A method for displaying digital content comprising:

using a first tuner and a first decoder to access and decode a first transport stream associated with a first frequency, wherein said first transport stream comprises first program information;

displaying in a main picture area of a display screen, a first program channel associated with said first transport stream;

using a second decoder to decode a second program information

operable to identify program related information for subsequent decoding thereof;

and

caching a portion of said decoded said second program information into a memory buffer operable to reduce a delay in rendering time of a second program channel associated with said second program channel when said second program channel is selected, wherein said portion of said decoded second program is used to display a plurality of frames associated with said second program; and

upon selection of a channel change to a new said second program channel associated with said second program, recalling said portion of said decoded second program information from said memory buffer for decoding thereof to provide a fast channel change operation to said second program channel and display thereof and displaying said decoded second program in said main picture area of said display screen to provide a fast channel change operation to said new channel.

24. (original) A method as described in Claim 23 wherein said first transport stream comprises said second program.

25. (currently amended) A method as described in Claim 23 wherein said second decoder is a spare decoder and wherein said second program channel is a predicted as a next program channel that will be selected.

26. (currently amended) A method as described in Claim 23 wherein said second program information is associated with a second transport stream and wherein said method further comprises comprising:

using a second tuner to access said second transport stream.

27. (original) A method as described in Claim 23 further comprising:

using a second tuner and a third decoder to access and decode a second transport stream associated with a second frequency; and

displaying in a picture-in-picture area of a display screen, a program associated with said second transport stream.

28. (original) A method as described in Claim 26 further comprising:

using a third tuner and a third decoder to access and decode a third transport stream associated with a third frequency; and

displaying in a picture-in-picture area of a display screen, a program associated with said third transport stream.

29. (currently amended) A method as described in Claim 26 wherein said second program channel is a predicted as a next program channel that will be selected, and wherein said method further comprises comprising:

using a third tuner and a third decoder to access and decode a third

program information associated with a third program channel, wherein said third program channel is a-predicted as a next program channel that will be selected.

30. (currently amended) A method as described in Claim 1, wherein said digital content program information comprises packets transmitted via said second transport stream a plurality of images.